



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman
Mike Pries, Vice Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Laura E. Evans, Esq., Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebeck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Amy Richards, Press Secretary; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Judge Jeanine Turgeon, Courts; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Tom Guenther, Director of IT; Kevin Wray, IT; Carl Dickson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Tom Wasco, Director of Veterans Affairs; Edgar Cohen, Director of Facilities Maintenance; Paul Kompare, Courts; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Matthew Miller, Director of Work Release; Holly Williard, Courts; Kay Lenge, Human Resources; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office; Abby Gabner, Commissioners' Office; Julia Mackey, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Matt Miller, Rich Bowra, Bruce Senft, Chad Saylor, Robb Keith, Fox 43, WHTM 27, Bob Houtz, Tom Hargis, Elmer Miller, Jr., Bob Stout, Brad Delancey, Ken Prowell, Gene Stilp, Gary Hodge, Robert Wray and families of Veterans

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haste: We have a number of meeting minutes that we'll take up at next week's Legislative Meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are now at the point in time in the meeting for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board at this time?

Mr. Stilp: Once again thank you for this opportunity. I have two things. One is to ask, once again, that the Commissioners rescind the pay raise. Notwithstanding what the attorney said last week, there seems to be a discrepancy on whether that can be done. I believe it can be done during this term. Secondly, at the State level and the Federal level, there are laws that say that before an election that funds that are controlled by agencies like the State government or the Federal government cannot be used for election purposes. I would like for the Commissioners, if there is nothing on the books already to that end, that no County controlled money can be used for election purposes. Any images of the commissioners should not be sent out before the election. I would like a 60-day limit if possible, similar to what the House and Senate have at the State level. That would be a good thing. I'd like you to consider that very soon.

To that end, I have a real concern with what has been happening the past few weeks. It seems that funding that is controlled by the Commissioners or agencies have been utilized to enhance the images of the County Commissioners before the election. I'll give you a few instances, one on October 22 a commercial on ESPN regarding recycling featured you three gentlemen. Recycling is fine, however, two weeks before an election is not a good time to have images of the County Commissioners out there. It pushes the level of coincidence that this commercial is running during the election period. Secondly, the recent mailings, as I brought up last week, the monies came from funds that are associated with the County. The amount of newsletters that went out was 20,000 to different people in the County. My point is this while it said nothing about the election, it is being used to enhance the image of the County Commissioners, because your pictures appear in their twice (front and back), right before an election. This is not a publication that comes out that often. I believe that the information in there should be sent to the people, because it identifies what things are available for seniors and also what the people in the County can do for help with the recent flooding. However, this coincidence with the Commissioners' images enhances the

Commissioners right before an election. Third it was developed by the County for County activities. I would like you to look into this. It is more than a coincidence.

To that end, I have no power to look into it. So, I have asked the Ethics Commission and also the Attorney General's Office to look into this, because this is crucial that this not be done if it is helping to enhance your images before an election. That is not up to me to look into, but there are agencies that look at these kinds of items.

So, one, please pass an ordinance that prohibits this in the future, if there is not something on the books already. Two, look at the mailings and coincidences that have occurred. Anybody with knowledge of this within County government about the decision-making process that put these items into effect at this time should be carefully looked at by these agencies. I'll give you what was filed. I hope there is nothing there, but if there is they'll find out and I don't want this to ever happen again, because using County monies that are controlled by the County I should say should not happen to enhance anybody's image before an election. Please pass an ordinance. Thank you!

Mr. Haste: Normally I just sit here and let you ramble and can't respond. Today, I'll respond. Everything we do follows both the election law and the Commonwealth laws. We are very careful about that. This is a Board of Commissioners that has been very active. We are active every day, 365 days out of the year. For you to ask us to take a vacation, because of an election really is a disservice to the taxpayers. We are going to stay active. We are going to stay involved. We are going to stay in front of the community and with the community every single day of the year. Whether there is an election or there is not an election is not going to affect the way we run this Board. You have a lot of opinions, most of them are well-founded, but quite frankly Gene I'm not going to sit by and I'm not going to take a break just because you want us to. You can file everything you want. I encourage you to file. If in fact a law has been violated we will correct it, because that is not the intent. We go above and beyond to try to make sure we comply with every law that we are required to comply with. If you want to change it go change the laws. We are abiding by them and we are a Board that is going to stay active. I'm not going to hide. I'm not going to go underneath a bush and I'm not going to send out stuff and x out our pictures or not send out information, because you want us to, because it is the time of the year for an election. We are elected to serve four years at a time, every single day of those four years and we will do so.

Mr. Stilp: Thank you! I'm asking you to do what the Federal government does and the State government does and not to use...

Mr. Haste: I wouldn't actually use them as good examples of how to run government.

Mr. Stilp: I'm using them for examples for the 60-day limit. That would be a good thing to do.

Mr. Haste: Should we go on vacation for 60 days?

Mr. Stilp: I'm not saying to go on vacation. You know I'm not saying to go on vacation. I'm asking for you to send out these newsletters without your images.

Mr. Haste: We've taken everything you said under advisement. I intend to not follow through on any of them. We are complying with the law. We've already checked it out. If they change the laws, we'll comply with the laws.

Mr. Stilp: It is up to you to change the laws. You are in charge of this law. It is up to you to change it. People at this level should have the authority to pass an ordinance.

Mr. Haste: Gene, isn't this funny that the only time we ever see you is during an election cycle.

Mr. Stilp: That's not true. I was here when you did the pay raise last year.

Mr. Haste: What was the first thing out of your mouth? The first thing out of your mouth was "I'm Gene Stilp; I'm a candidate for the 104th House seat."

Mr. Stilp: Check the record on that.

Mr. Haste: That is the only time you are here.

Mr. Stilp: That's not true.

Mr. Haste: You are here for political purposes. We don't run this Board based on politics like you want us to. We are not going to.

Mr. Stilp: If you don't base it on politics then take your images off the newsletters. Thank you very much.

Mr. Haste: Thank you Gene!

Is there anyone else that would like to come before the Board? (There was none.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Rich Bowra, Director, Dauphin County Library System

1. General Library Update

Mr. Senft: On behalf of the Dauphin County Library System, I would like to thank all of you for the invitation to come in and share with you a brief update on the state of the Library. My name is Bruce Senft. I'm the current President of the Board of Trustees. With me is Rich Bowra, our Executive Director. By all accounts the state of the Library is healthy. We believe that 2011 will end as a very successful year, perhaps even a

record-setting year for the Library. That's not to say however that we don't have some challenges in front of us, but then life wouldn't be interesting without those challenges. One of the four major goals of our strategic plan for 2011 was to increase the visibility of library services in the community. In large part that goal was a response to a recommendation that you, Commissioner Haste, provided to us at our retreat in October of 2010. I appreciate those comments. Early in January, DCLS, unveiled a new logo. I'm hoping that you have all taken notice of it. We are very proud of the new logo. We began a new marketing and public relations campaign around that new logo. The tag line, the Library is open for discovery. Since then we embarked on a campaign to share our message with the residents of Dauphin County. It's not as if we hadn't been before, but in a more proactive way. For example since the beginning of the year we've conducted numerous presentations before many municipalities within the County, as well as, a number of civic and business groups to share our message. We hope to continue that on an ongoing basis, perhaps annually. These presentations, I think, have been very well received. They provided us with some good input, but overall I think the reaction has been very positive. Our message is pretty simple. We are more than just a collection of books. Rather we're a place for free access to virtually a limitless supply or amount of information from many formats and from many sources that either meet what we believe are critical needs in the community or serve to enhance and enrich the lives of the residents of Dauphin County. Now, I'd like to turn the program over to Rich and he is going to share with you some of those services and some of the highlights from the past year.

Mr. Bowra: Business is booming. Any rumors about the public library being outdated in this Google world are greatly exaggerated. We continue to enjoy very notable gains in terms of items out the door, a 12% increase so far in 2011, which will put an additional 132,000 items in the hands of Dauphin County residents, looking at a circulation of around 1.2 or 1.3 million this year. We have about a 9% increase in people actually coming through our doors. So, the physical book and item is still very important. Our web presence supplements what we do on that side and people virtually visit our website. We are looking at close to 750,000 hits on our website this year, in terms of library resources that we have to offer. Everything from downloadable books to interact with children's books and things of that sort are available on the web. In a typical month more than 2,000 people attend free library programming at our agencies. Thus far this year we have issued about another 10,000 library cards to Dauphin County residents.

One of the things that we are doing is embracing five literacies that we think are important to the wellbeing and success of the citizens of Dauphin County. Basic literacy - being able to read and write. We do a lot with our summer reading program, preventing what we call the summer slide for kids while they are off for those several months.

Information literacy - being able to use the Internet effectively. One of the sayings that I've heard is searching Google is sometimes like trying to drink through a fire hose, just trying to sort through all that information that is there. One of the sayings that I heard in terms of validating sites on the Internet is "The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that

it is difficult to determine whether or not they are genuine, signed Abraham Lincoln.” Just making a little point that there is a lot of information out there and one of our roles is to really help guide people to sort through that information and validate sites so what they are getting online is effective and useful to them.

Mr. Haste: That will show up in someone’s research paper.

Mr. Bowra: There are some fake websites out there that teachers use just to try to challenge the students. They are pretty amazing. In that information literacy, I’m pleased to announce that M&T Bank has made a commitment of \$10,000 to fund our new laptop lab at our Library in Colonial Park. That will assist as well. A lot of residents in Dauphin County do not have access to computers or the Internet and we are one of the few places they can go to get that.

Civic and Social Literacy – being good citizens. We have a lot in terms of job and current information and continue to do that for Dauphin County citizens.

Health Literacy is another one of the literacies that is so very important to the community.

Financial Literacy – just a few weeks ago we had a press conference, PNC Foundation awarded us \$60,000 to do a financial literacy program for the residents of Dauphin County. We continue to partner with the County. We recently partnered with Probation and Parole providing children’s books for the children of the clients who go to the Probation and Parole Office. We are working with Carl Dickson on the Lykens Valley Rails to Trails. As the digital divide expands, fed by a struggling economy, we are increasing focus on online access. The role that the Library plays is increasingly important. We want to make sure that we are there helping the citizens of Dauphin County move on. We want to be there for them. At a recent library conference in State College, one of the speakers was challenging us and said “public libraries can either be at the table or on the menu.” That phrase has been used for other things as well, but we prefer to be at the table helping in any way that we can. I’ll turn it back to Bruce for a closing and then we’ll entertain any questions that you might have.

Mr. Senft: All of this would not be possible without the support of the County Commissioners. I’m not shy about telling you that at this time of year. You have helped make this an incredible year for us and with your continued support, through the oversight of Commissioner Mike Pries. Mike, we really appreciate your attendance at many of the functions that we’ve had throughout the year and in particular our recent Board Retreat. Your input was extremely valuable for us. We’ll continue, I believe, to use our resources as wisely as we possibly can, plan carefully for the future, because there are some challenges coming up in the future. We’ll continue to look for ways to improve and implement operational efficiencies. We encourage all of you to continue to read on and continue to explore the many treasures that the Library has to offer. Thank you very much!

Mr. Pries: Thank you! That was a fantastic presentation. It was some good information, some great updates. You continue to think outside the box. You are one department that I'm very proud to have oversight of. You come here at our budget meetings, as you did last year, Commissioner Haste made some recommendations and Commissioner Hartwick made one specific recommendation about doing an energy audit for the future. You guys take the bull by the horn. You are very proactive. You've done so. You listened to the recommendations and you go out and get it done. I'm very happy to be here today and hear this update, because you are working on behalf of all the residents around the community who are able to come in and participate with all the great projects and programs that our Library has to offer. I thank you for all you are doing on behalf of the people in this room and around the County.

Mr. Hartwick: I know there have been several recommendations from healthcare to energy audits to operational efficiencies to examining hours of operation. I think as a Board and our recommendations are always to try to find the most efficient and effective way to run your operation and not have to bear that burden to taxpayers. That's why the Board made the decision to not have to raise the Library tax three years ago in an attempt to try to supplement some of the shortfalls that you received; quite frankly, on a short-sighted view from State government. We all know that during a time of crisis and economic downturn that the utilization of our Libraries, that free service, is one that goes up. It is one that is utilized heavily by folks who are doing job searches and trying to figure out ways to find new avenues to employment. I know you have engaged in a lot of those discussions. I just want to know from our perspective, as it relates to the energy audit, and we are going to continue to support the Library even if it means making difficult decisions to raise revenue, which is a bad word in this current economy. I think the valuable services of the Library are one that I'm not going to compromise. As it relates to the energy audit, where are we at with that and have you taken a look at some of the older facilities in an attempt, as we have done here in the County, to try to maximize efficiencies and reduce our carbon footprint and hopefully create some jobs in the process?

Mr. Bowra: With the energy audit, we just finished about a year ago with the opening of the Library in Hummelstown; a very aggressive Library facilities project, probably about \$10 million in facilities work, none of which used County operational dollars. That was all raised money. We retrofitted our building in Colonial Park. We are putting a new roof on it now. That is a separate issue. We retrofitted, insulated and changed some windows and changed the lights in that facility. The same with our downtown facility. We did an RFQ to do the first energy audit of our Library in Elizabethville. We got responses from about 10 or 12 firms. We are about ready to put that out for bid. About a month ago, we got a call from a professor from Penn State Harrisburg, graduate students, many of whom are employed in local engineering firms who were looking for a class project. They have now taken on and are in the midst of doing an energy audit of Elizabethville gratis rather than on a cost basis. We hope to have results from that audit later this year and we expect to make some changes in that building to reflect your concerns.

Mr. Hartwick: That's one thing that we sincerely appreciate the ability to provide some insight on healthcare, things that we've done successfully and most importantly as an agency for you to really respond and understand the crisis that we have and organizationally look at ways to make it more efficient. You responded to our request and concerns. You've added to our position of supporting the Library as we move forward in the future. Continue to keep the hours of operation and times when people need you the most. Don't compromise and we'll continue to be here to support you.

Mr. Haste: I'm impressed with how well the cooperation between us has gone over the last few years in difficult times. We've talked about that. I remember when you were here with the funding need before. We were stressed then about having to raise taxes. We didn't raise taxes. I knew that if you just looked that was a signal to you that we weren't in support. We were able to find a way to work through that. We have been tough for years and I'm very proud of you that you have been able to continue the service out there to the citizens and the numbers speak for themselves. Just as we thought when the economy went down we thought your usage would go up and it has. It is not just the Internet. When you look at your statistics its hard books. It is still documents that are going out of that facility. That speaks a lot right there.

Mr. Senft: As a volunteer it is very gratifying to serve on this Board and a privilege to do so, not just because of the great staff that we have, but the volunteers who support the Library are incredibly driven people with important purposes in their lives and that makes a big difference. I'm sure you share that as County Commissioners, because of the service that you provide to the residents of Dauphin County. It is a two-way street and we appreciate the communication and the ability to talk frankly with you about our issues and challenges and get the kind of insight and support that you provide to us.

Mr. Haste: Thanks for working with the Lykens Valley Rail Trail. Once it is completed, it will be a great facility/path for folks in the Northern Dauphin County area.

Mr. Hartwick: We also appreciate your cooperation in working with the urban communities – Super Reader specifically. I know that the economy has hit everybody and being able to partner with folks that deliver services to people in our urban community is something that I will continue to support. Super Reader has done a great service. He is one of my super heroes and hopefully for a lot of kids around the area. I would appreciate your efforts in engaging and enhancing his visibility through the Library system.

Mr. Bowra: What we have done recently is invited him to actually integrate his programs into ours as part of programs we offer.

Mr. Pries: I also find it interesting, not in a good way, that the individuals who have slashed your budget over the years at the State are the same ones who have benefited from utilizing public libraries when they grew up. That is something that we are keeping an eye on as well. Keep up the great work in thinking outside the box on behalf of all the residents.

B. Dauphin County Commissioners

1. Proclamations – World War II Veterans

Mr. Pries: It is my honor and privilege to present a couple Proclamations here this morning. We are going to do it back and forth, between the three of us, because we have several here honoring our veterans. They are individuals who put service above self, put their country above self and are members of the greatest generation of Americans. Without further ado, I'm going to read the first Proclamation that I have in front of me; which is for Marshall Gillard, who is not here today, but his daughter is.

Office of County Commissioner
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

***Whereas**, it is with much gratitude and pride that we gather to honor a World War II hero who served our nation with true valor, Marshall Gillard;*

***Whereas**, through the courage and patriotism of Marshall Gillard and his fellow men and women during World War II, and the sacrifices of the family members they left behind during their tour of duty, Americans continue to live under the cloak of freedom;*

***Whereas**, Marshall enlisted in the Army Medical Corps on February 19, 1941, and was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, where he received training as a physicians' assistant, at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, TX, and graduated at the top of his class;*

***Whereas**, in July of 1944, the 10th Corps Headquarters, in which Marshall was attached, embarked for the Pacific Theatre; and in an attempt to remain stateside because of caring for his younger brother, he tested and passed to be a pilot and was stationed in Little Rock, Arkansas with the 66th Infantry, where he awaited transfer to Keesler Army Airfield and later aviation cadet school;*

***Whereas**, the demand for pilots lifted in mid-1944, before his training as a pilot began; so he enlisted in the US Army Officer Candidate School for ordnance and was later transferred to Hawaii, where he was placed in charge of the motor pool and remained there until the war ended;*

***Whereas**, though Marshall never set foot on foreign land during the war, he continues to recognize his fellow comrades by visiting the World War II Monument in Farmingdale, NY, where his name is listed, with others that have made the supreme sacrifice for our country;*

***Therefore**, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County, as we honor Marshall Gillard for the sacrifices he has made to defend this beloved land of the free and home of the brave; and, in honor thereof, we are privileged to proclaim November 2, 2011 as "Marshall Gillard Day" in Dauphin County;*

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Hartwick: It is my privilege at this point to recognize Tom Hargis. Thank you for being here.

(Applause was given.)

It is because of the service of these gentlemen that we have the opportunity to exercise this form of government and the ability to speak freely, even though you saw the display and exchange earlier; it is still a part of our democracy. The opportunity to have those exchanges, ideas and beliefs have been made possible by folks who have volunteered their service, in this case, to be able to protect and defend our democracy. We want to thank you personally for that Mr. Hargis.

Mr. Hartwick read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioner
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

***Whereas**, it is with much gratitude and pride that we gather to honor a World War II hero who served our nation with true valor, Tom Hargis;*

***Whereas**, through the courage and patriotism of Tom Hargis and his fellow men and women during World War II, and the sacrifices of the family members they left behind during their tour of duty, Americans continue to live under the cloak of freedom;*

***Whereas**, Tom volunteered for the U.S. Army on February 12, 1941, and first reported to Baltimore, MD for initial processing, then to the New Cumberland Army Depot for final induction processing and later to Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation for duty;*

***Whereas**, on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, he was deployed to Camp Kilmer, NJ as a cadre for the 808th Amphibious Truck Company and underwent specialized training in the operation and maintenance of land and water vehicles; and his tour of duty later included being deployed to Fort ORD, CA, Milne Bay, New Guinea, Island of Hollandia and later the Island of Leyte, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur;*

***Whereas**, while stationed on Leyte Island, he became eligible for rotation and returned to the U.S., where Tom was separated from active military service receiving an honorable discharge; and in 1948, Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve joining the 432nd Transportation Company as its first Sergeant; and Tom completed his Army career in 1975 with the rank of Major;*

***Therefore**, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County, as we honor Tom Hargis for the sacrifices he has made to defend this beloved land of the free and home of the brave; and, in honor thereof, we are privileged to proclaim November 3, 2011 as "Tom Hargis Day" in Dauphin County;*

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Haste: It's hard not to get a little bit emotional. I'm one of the fortunate ones who never was called to service. I tried to enlist in Desert Storm and was not successful in that enlistment. I am the son of a veteran and a father of a soldier. The other thing about Veterans Day is it was also my grandfather Haste's birthday. Veterans Day is always a day that has been highly regarded in my family. It is an honor today to be part of paying a small tribute back to those who have served their country very well for us all.

It is my pleasure at this time to read the Proclamation for Elmer Miller, Jr., the proud father of one of Dauphin County's finest Matt Miller and his family.

Office of County Commissioner

Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

Whereas, it is with much gratitude and pride that we gather to honor a World War II hero who served our nation with true valor, Elmer Miller Jr.;

Whereas, through the courage and patriotism of Elmer Miller and his fellow men and women during World War II, and the sacrifices of the family members they left behind during their tour of duty, Americans continue to live under the cloak of freedom;

Whereas, Elmer voluntarily enlisted in the Army and reported to Fort George Meade, Maryland on February 24, 1943; from there he was deployed to the 97th Infantry in Austin, Texas, where he completed basic training;

Whereas, through extensive and successful training, Elmer became an airplane Armorer Gunner and was dispatched to Davis Monthan Air Base in Tucson, Arizona, where he was assigned to the B-24 Liberator;

Whereas, Elmer's flight crew was dispatched from Arizona to New Guinea and placed in the 22nd Bomb Group, 19th Squadron where they worked north towards Japan providing ground support to infantry troops as they established bases throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Theater;

Whereas, on December 7, 1945, Elmer was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant and received the following decorations and citations: American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars and one Silver Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal and the Air Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster;

Therefore, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County, as we honor Elmer Miller Jr. for the sacrifices he has made to defend this beloved land of the free and home of the brave; and, in honor thereof, we are privileged to proclaim November 6, 2011 as "Elmer Miller Jr. Day" in Dauphin County;

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Pries: I have the honor of reading the next Proclamation for Ken Prowell.

Office of County Commissioner Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

Whereas, it is with much gratitude and pride that we gather to honor a World War II hero who served our nation with true valor, Ken Prowell;

Whereas, through the courage and patriotism of Ken Prowell and his fellow men and women during World War II, and the sacrifices of the family members they left behind during their tour of duty, Americans continue to live under the cloak of freedom;

Whereas, Ken was drafted into the U.S. Navy in 1942 and ordered to Seabee boot camp, at Camp Peary, Virginia and upon completion of boot camp, Ken was assigned to the 10th Specialist Battalion, where he learned additional duties as a Stevedore and was later transferred to the 14th Specialist Battalion in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii;

Whereas, Ken served as both the official bugler and photographer for his battalion, and undoubtedly his most interesting and historically significant photos taken were in March of 1945, when President Franklin Delanor Roosevelt visited Pearl Harbor;

Whereas, Ken remained active up until six months after the war ended when he was discharged from active duty to reserve duty; and Ken remained in the Naval Reserves until 1950 when he was called upon to return to active duty in Korea as one of 20 men called from Harrisburg;

***Whereas,** Ken's orders sent him to various locations where he provided vital construction and supply support in not one, but two wars; and he proudly displays a United States Navy flag next to the American flag outside his home;*

***Therefore,** we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County, as we honor Ken Prowell for the sacrifices he has made to defend this beloved land of the free and home of the brave; and, in honor thereof, we are privileged to proclaim November 5, 2011 as "Ken Prowell Day" in Dauphin County;*

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Hartwick: If any of you want to read, in more detail, about the individuals that we are honoring here today, they are featured in this month's FACES. It details their service to this country, but also their service to the County and its residents. One thing that is common through this theme is service and belief in family, country and God. We are grateful and the County is better off for the service of the individuals that we are honoring today. Last, but not least, we go to the individual in front of us who is taking care of both the technical aspect of today's ceremony, but also I believe it is your grandfather that is being honored here as well. We got Kevin Wray who is with our IT Department.

(Applause was given.)

We know these things and the ideas and beliefs are passed down through families and generations about service. We are grateful for your grandfather.

Mr. Hartwick read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioner
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

***Whereas,** it is with much gratitude and pride that we gather to honor a World War II hero who served our nation with true valor, Robert (Bob) Wray;*

***Whereas,** through the courage and patriotism of Robert Wray and his fellow men and women during World War II, and the sacrifices of the family members they left behind during their tour of duty, Americans continue to live under the cloak of freedom;*

***Whereas,** World War II was almost over by the time Robert Wray was old enough to join the Army; however, he quickly ascended to his role as a military mail carrier;*

***Whereas,** despite the danger he faced when traveling, Robert, who received high-security clearance, made sure troops stationed in Europe received their precious letters, gifts and rations from home;*

***Whereas,** in addition to his normal mail delivery, Robert transported high-ranking officers, including generals, and provided critical support to those on the front line;*

***Therefore,** we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County, as we honor Robert Wray for the sacrifices he has made to defend this beloved land of the free and home of the brave; and, in honor thereof, we are privileged to proclaim November 6, 2011 as "Robert (Bob) Wray Day" in Dauphin County;*

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Haste: If we could have our honorees come up to get a group photo.

(Pictures were taken and Applause was given.)

C. Gary Hodge, Veterans Administration Philadelphia Regional Office

1. Presentation of Training Video

Mr. Wasco: I would like to introduce Gary Hodge. He is the Pension Manager at the Regional Office in Philadelphia. The VA came up to me several months ago and asked me to do a training film for their personnel and for the Department of Veterans Affairs. They asked me to pick a client. I picked a gentleman from Lykens who was unemployed, never worked that much, did a lot of odd jobs, never paid into Social Security. He could not work, because of his back. He was living in a tent in the backyard of his ex-girlfriend. The VA wanted to show what they do. They don't get to see a face.

Mr. Hodge: My name is Gary Hodge and I'm the Manager of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Philadelphia Regional Offices Insurance Center and Pension Management Center. We periodically poll our employees through focus groups and surveys to identify training needs. Through these discussions and seminars, we put together an additional customer service training workshop. The purpose behind it was to try to connect our employees back with our veteran population, because the Philadelphia Pension Center is responsible for the pension and survivor benefits for the entire east coast of the United States, foreign jurisdictions and also the Northeast of the country. We deal, as Tom said, primarily with paper and telephones. We don't see the people that we are dealing with. We don't have an opportunity to interact with them one-on-one. We don't typically see the opportunities, the things we create, how we can better people's lives. From this we reached out to our veteran service officer community looking for various veterans who would be able to share their story of how they benefited from the programs and how we were able to enrich their lives to show a positive story for our folks to demonstrate all the positive things we do for people. After reaching out to several of our partners, our VSO partners, Tom was able to identify our veteran, Larry Brown. He is a United States Marine Corp Veteran, served in our country in Vietnam. He had a very unique story where he was living in a tent. We were able to take him with no income from a tent to an apartment. In Larry's words, we gave him peace of mind. The video that we put together, that Tom, not only was he able to find a veteran, but he also plays a prominent role in that video. He was able to pretty much show the role of the veteran service officer, the county directors and how they assist VA in perfecting and following up on claims and highlighted the role, which was one of the purposes of our training, was to highlight the VSO role and highlight them as our partners and also the positive good that came from working with this one unique veteran.

One of the points of pride that I like to take from all of this is the fact that this veteran's claim came in from Tom and it was processed in eight days, but there was nothing

special marked on it. It was just the fact that a series of people, from Tom going out to talk to this individual, Mr. Brown, from mailing the application in and the various folks in my office who are responsible for processing just did their job and did it extremely well. Within eight days this veteran, not only did he receive a decision and a pledge from the VA that we were going to pay him x number of dollars. He was then able to secure an apartment and pretty much get off the streets and take care of himself. It was a very good story. Unfortunately, with technical difficulties we can't share the video, but hopefully you will have a chance to review it. So far to date, 500 people who work for me in the Pension Center have viewed this video. It has been received very well. All the supervisory and managerial staff of the Regional Office has viewed the video. It has been posted on the VA's training website for use by all VA employees, if they so choose. We are pushing it as training material for our other two pension centers in Milwaukee and St. Paul. It's also been highlighted in an episode of VA News, which is archived on the VA's website and also the Pentagon Channel on their website also highlighted this news article, just as a positive thing that we are doing to service our veterans. Unfortunately we can't show it, because it really shows the great work that everyone does to service our nation's veterans. In particular, what you are doing here in Dauphin County through Tom to pretty much take care of these individuals and get them the benefits that they deserve and are entitled to. I'll repeat Larry Brown...It gave him peace of mind and a lot of people did a lot of great things to do that. It was a great opportunity to work with Tom and I do thank you for making him available to us. I don't think the product would have come out like it did without Tom's support. Tom picked the veteran and he starred in it. When our film crew came out and the employees who facilitated the entire project, Tom was there to show them some hospitality and get them from point A to point B. He played a very large role in this product. It has been a great success for us. It is something that we will continue to use in new employee orientations and new employee training sessions throughout the future. It was a great product and again thanking Tom and all of you for the support in making that happen for us.

Mr. Haste: Thank you! Tom thanks for doing that. I would at least like to see it.

Mr. Wasco: I'll get a copy to you. The video explains exactly what this veteran went through. We both enjoyed the video. It takes the person off the street and that is what we are here to do is to take care of the veterans.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lengle: Do you have any questions on the personnel listing? (There was none.)

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: The Packet was handed out yesterday along with a Blackberry request. It is another one for the Forfeiture Funds. This is the last one. Unless you have any questions, both of those can be moved to next week for a vote.

Recommendation for Bid Award – Reservoir Park & Nature Preserve

Mr. Baratucci: The other thing I have is a recommendation for a Bid Award from HRG. This was a bid that we had done awhile back. We rejected all the bids, because they were too high and then we did a re-bid on it. It is for Reservoir Park and Nature Preserve in Highspire Borough, partnered with our Parks & Recreation Department. At this time, we were able to come up with a low bid that is acceptable to everyone. The second page has all the bidders that participated. There were seven. The recommendation is to go with the low bidder. Do you want to approve it now or wait until next week?

Mr. Hartwick: We wanted to get engaged and involved for the right reasons, because the Borough wanted to initiate the project. I know it was something that Commissioner DiFrancesco was heavily involved with, but I saw in the local papers there was some contention over the priority of the project. Ultimately I felt that we were following the lead of Highspire Borough in this case in trying to take care of a project that was high on their priority list that they had monies that were earmarked from DEP and other folks. We were only helping to enhance that and provide some matching funding to make a worthwhile project happen. Just an update...I didn't know it was so controversial.

Mr. Dickson: Almost any park project can be, unfortunately, in this day and age, but it is a project that has been in the works for six or seven years. DCNR supported it and the funding from DCNR is a Realty Transfer Tax. In this culture today, people think that those monies can be used for other things and they can't be.

Mr. Hartwick: Folks want to say we have problems with the road or infrastructure, the point is that the money, if not utilized for this specific project, would go around somewhere else in the State and be utilized for a project in an area where they didn't have the contention. Just like gaming revenues, we hear all the time, should be used to give us property tax relief when enabling legislation requires us to spend it on local projects, economic development infrastructure and public safety. It is more often a miscommunication.

Mr. Haste: Since you brought that up, the other clarification, and everybody seems to forget this, the majority of the gaming revenue tax is collected by the State and does go to property tax relief. It is only that small allocation that is set aside for the local municipalities that people still think ought to be...they mix the two up. People don't understand where the money comes from.

Mr. Hartwick: I agree there should be other priorities if the monies would be able to be used for those purposes, but that is not the case with this project.

Mr. Dickson: This is sort of a landlocked community. This is the only open space that they have. It is a really neat opportunity, actually.

Mr. Hartwick: I thought the project was great.

Mr. Dickson: The majority of the people do, but again, in our society too where people can speak out...

Mr. Hartwick: Some people are virtually against everything. They won't see anything move forward, but they will be against whatever is being proposed.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve the recommendation of HRG to award the bid for the Reservoir Park and Nature Preserve Project in Highspire Borough to the low bidder, Rutledge Excavating, Inc. at a bid price of \$585,083.67.

Question: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

Mr. Baratucci: Contracts will be prepared and given to the Solicitor's Office for signing at a future meeting.

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Haste: Is there anything that we need to approve?

Ms. Evans: Yes, a request for a vote on #5 and #13.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Items #5 and #13 that are listed on the Training Packet.

Question: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Bid Award for Bridge #32 Emergency Foundation Repairs – NuPump Construction in the amount of \$35,600. (*****A Vote is Requested 11/2/11*****)

Mr. Haste: We have a request for a vote on a Bid Award for Bridge #32. Are there any questions on that? (There was none.)

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Item A listed above under Items for Discussion.

Question: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – WILLIAM TULLY, ESQ.

Mr. Tully: I have no changes to report on the Solicitor’s Report. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Mr. Hartwick: I just see that there are a number of other Tax Assessment refunds.

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – LAURA E. EVANS, ESQ.

Ms. Evans: I just wanted to note that beginning yesterday, Registration & Elections started to deliver voting machines to precincts and wards throughout Dauphin County.

Also, following this meeting we will be making the THANKS Program announcement.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions of Laura? (There was none.)

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Haste: Is there anything else to be brought up by the Board? (There was none.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are again at the point in time in the meeting for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board?

Mr. Pries: There are 40 reasons George Hartwick does not want me to read this.

Mr. Pries read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioner **Dauphin County, Pennsylvania**

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are delighted to join the many loving family members, cherished friends and the many employees of Dauphin County in wishing the incomparable and accomplished Dauphin County Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III a very happy 40th birthday and many more years of good health and happiness;

Whereas, the son of Nean and George, loving husband to Sasha, exceptionally proud father of four beautiful girls and a young son, George, and loyal friend to many, George is an exceedingly bright spot in an already wonderful family;

Whereas, at the young age of 24, George became the youngest person ever to be elected Mayor of the Borough of Steelton, his beloved hometown, where he devoted much time to not only revitalizing the downtown area, but also to restoring community pride;

Whereas, this Steelton-born, die-hard Rollers fan and state wrestling champ is also widely known for his unmatched dedication to human services and to ensuring those in need are cared for;

Whereas, an incredibly caring and compassionate leader, George will move mountains to help a family member—or anyone—in need;

Therefore, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County in celebrating the rich, long life of Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III and in recognizing his landmark 40th birthday; we salute his incredible compassion and charisma and wish him enduring success, happiness and good health in the years to come; we thank him most sincerely for his selfless commitment to serving this capital county, for hard work is truly the "Hartwick Way;" and, in grateful tribute to his life and love, we are delighted to declare November 2 to November 9, 2011 as "George P. Hartwick, III Week" in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Hartwick: I see my mom and wife in the back of the room. Thank you for being here. Thanks to the employees of Dauphin County who have truly become very much a part of my life. Thanks to my family. We have been through some rough spots, but things are better than they ever have been. I'm really grateful to my wife and children, because they really are what truly matters. Thank you!

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board adjourn.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz